

Romans 3:1 *What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?*

Paul just mentioned how the Jews were no different in the sight of God from the Gentiles.

Romans chapter three ties in chapter one which is the non-religious persons need for righteousness and chapter two reveals the religious person need for righteousness. Chapter three collaborates the first two chapters and emphasizes **all** need righteousness. So, for the Jews was there any advantage to being a Jew? Yes, of course.

The Jew's thought Jesus was coming to establish a physical kingdom but Jesus came to establish a spiritual kingdom. The Jews were under the oppression of the Roman empire at the time. They hated this and were awaiting a day the Messiah would come and they would reign with their Messiah. The spiritual kingdom would be and is now in the hearts of all who believe (Luke 17:21).

Romans 3:2 *Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.*

The Jews were God's chosen people and whom He chose to establish covenant with. They were given the very word of God, but it was not the law that was bad (Rom 7:12) but it was their use and interpretation of it (1 Tim 1:8). They could have seen the law as God's heart and His standard of holiness and would have given them an advantage but instead, they thought the law was given for them to live by and that produced judgement towards others.

This is a quotation taken from Deuteronomy 4:5-6. "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to *them* in the land which you go to possess. Therefore, be careful to observe *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people'.

Romans 3:3 *For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?*

Paul is now asking if some did not believe that justification or right standing with God is not by putting faith in a Savior does that void God's means for salvation? The answer is No. God's way to Him is through Jesus (Jn 14:6) and that is the only way.

Romans 3:4 *Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "THAT YOU MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS, AND MAY OVERCOME WHEN YOU ARE JUDGED."*

If the Jews failed to receive Jesus' payment on their behalf this did not void God's means for salvation. If no one received Jesus, it would not do away with the avenue which to be right with God is offered. God is true and anyone who states something that opposes God is a liar. In our own life we need to reckon God to be true and every man a liar. God's word is true regardless of who believes them (Jn 17:17).

The primary way for our cars to run is through gasoline (some are electric now) but if no one believed gasoline would get the car started that does not change the means by which the car will run. It is still true we just fail to reap the benefits if we don't believe.

This is a quotation taken from Job 40:8, "Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?"

Romans 3:5 *But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.)*

Could we stand before God and say it was our sin that showed us God's holiness, therefore this is why we sinned? Paul answers this in the next verse.

Romans 3:6 *Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world?*

The answer is absolutely not! Scripture is clear that in the second coming God will judge the world so we know that judgment is coming, and His judgment will be fair. It is true that we can see how Holy God is through our short comings but that is not God's way of showing us. We will never be able to say before God it was my sin that brought us closer to Him.

Romans 3:7 *For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner?*

It is foolish to think the more we sin, the more God will be glorified.

Romans 3:8 *And why not say, "Let us do evil that good may come"—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.*

Can we say that I was in sin and it was good for me? Absolutely not. Paul preached God's goodness and the good news that sin is not a barrier between us and God and people took that as Paul giving man a license to sin. Paul never encouraged people to sin. The gospel sets us free from sin, not to sin and teaches us to deny all ungodliness (Titus 2:11).

Romans 3:9 *What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.*

Paul is asking here, are the Jews better than the Gentiles? As he already stated all have been born into this world separated from God (Rom 5:13) and have fallen short. God's measuring stick is Jesus and if we cannot (which we can't) live up to His holiness then we all fall short. Jews and Gentiles have righteousness of their own that is of filthy rags (Is 64:6). We all like sheep have gone astray (Is 53:6). There are two types of righteousness ours and God's (Rom 10:3). We need God's and it only comes through the person of Jesus.

God's grading system is 100% perfection. If you score a 99.9% you do not receive an A on your test score but an F.

Romans 3:10 *As it is written: "there is none righteous, no, not one;*

Paul uses verses 10-18 into revealing the natural man apart from Jesus but also someone who is born again with an unrenewed mind. This verse sums up chapter one and two and says all fall short! We have to humble ourselves to receive salvation. Legalistic people have their eyes on self while grace has its eyes on Him.

All are under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe (Gal 3:22).

This is a quotation taken from Psalms 14:1-3; 53:1-3.

Romans 3:11 *there is no one who understands; there is none of seeks after God.*

Without the indwelling or witness of the Holy Spirit natural man does not seek after God. He has a spirit that is disconnected from God and anyone who has a sin nature is led by the flesh.

The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them (1 Cor 2:14). The natural is referring to a man not born again.

Romans 3:12 *they have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one.*"

The word unprofitable is *achreioō* and means to make useless or render unserviceable. Fallen man cannot produce good. This verse is speaking of the fallen state of man. Man apart from God cannot do good. Jesus says there is only one who is good.

A person that is not born again may do good works but it will always have a motive that points back to self. They may give to a non-profit but the benefit may be to get a tax write off.

Romans 3:13 *"their throat is an open tomb; with. Their tongues they. have practiced deceit"; "the poison of asps is under their lips";*

Natural man cannot control his tongue. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Lk 6:45) and the heart of someone not born again has lips that cannot be tamed. Whoever guards their mouth and tongue keeps their soul from trouble (Prv. 21:23).

Anyone born again has the Word of God dwelling in them and can now speak life.

Romans 3:14 *"whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness."*

Cursing and bitterness come from the state of fallen man. We should not sound like a non-believer.

This is a quotation taken from Psalm 10:7.

Romans 3:15 *"their feet are swift to shed blood;*

This is a quotation taken from Proverbs 1:16; Is 59:7, 8.

Romans 3:16 *destruction and misery are in their ways;*

The natural man is led by their flesh and out of it reaps destruction (Gal 6:8).

Romans 3:17 *and the way of peace they have not known."*

Jesus is the way of peace. The only peace we can have with God is through Jesus and a non-believer does not know Him. Jesus is the prince of Peace as He says His name is Jehovah Shalom.

We now have peace with God because we are justified by faith (Rom 5:1). Jesus came with a message to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord's favor (Luke 4:19). It is only through the gospel that we can have peace with God.

Romans 3:18 *"there is no fear of God before their eyes."*

This verse is speaking of how someone not seeking God does not glorify Him. Someone who does not glorify God does not fear Him. To fear of the Lord is to reverence Him and to hate evil (Prov 8:13). Verses 10-18 are all evil.

This is a quotation taken from Psalm 36:1.

Romans 3:19 *Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*

The law was given to God's covenant people; the Israelites and it was only temporary until the Seed should come (Gal 3:19). It was given to expose our sin nature. Once the law was given all deception is gone of what sin is and God's standard of holiness is exposed. The true intent of the law was to show us how Holy God is and how unholy we are so that we can cry out for a Savior. (Ps 22:3).

Every mouth is stopped when the law comes because it reveals our relatively unworthiness. You

no longer can say you're good enough. Every time a person thinks they are good enough; the law would come in.

Romans 3:20 *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Salvation does not come through works of the law for in it no one will be justified but it is through faith (Gal 2:16, 3:11). The works of the law are man's attempt to please or earn God's favor by their performance. The law is the knowledge of sin and gives us knowledge we're not good enough. Paul said he would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law (Rom 7:7). Salvation only comes through One, and it is Jesus (Acts 4:12).

Paul said that he was determined not to know anything except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor 2:2). Paul sates the person and His works; you are not the person and it's not about your works.

Romans 3:21 *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets*

Paul just spoke of how the law was given to the Israelites under a certain dispensation but now the righteousness of God is revealed and it is not according to works (2 Tim 1:9). It is revealed that righteousness comes through faith in what Christ has done for us, not what we do for Him. The prophets prophesied of the grace that would come to us (1 Peter 1:10).

Jesus confirmed the gospel was spoken of in the Old Testament law and prophets pointing to Him. In Matthew 5:17; Jesus mentions the law and prophets. In Matthew 12:3, Jesus asks have you read while He is affirming history in Old Testament.

Romans 3:22 *even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;*

Righteousness just means right standing with God. What we offer to God or can do for Him is never good enough to earn right standing with Him so this verse is saying that when we put faith into what Jesus did for us, we then believe His righteousness is imputed to us (2 Cor 5:21).

To all and on all is referring to there being no exclusion to whom this applies. Salvation is available to all; however, it becomes a reality only to those who believe (Titus 2:11). We have a part to play.

Romans 3:23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

This verse sums up Paul's main point for chapter three. The Greek word sinned is hamartano and means to miss the mark. If we fall even an inch short, we are too short to receive salvation.

If a person makes an A- on a test in the worlds system they still pass, but in God's system an A- is an F. We must have total perfection or we miss it completely. To fall short in Greek is hustereo

and means to lack, suffer need, to be destitute or deficient. This is the state we are in when we offer our holiness to the Lord.

Romans 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

The Greek word for justified is *dikaioo* and means to show innocent. When we put faith in Jesus finished works and not our own God views us innocent before Him just as if we have never sinned (Rom 5:1). Jesus took our sin and we take His righteousness. This is why Calvary is called the Great Exchange.

Romans 3:25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

Jesus came as a propitiation of sin for the entire world (1 Jn 2:2). The forgiveness of sin is not based off trying harder or apology but by blood. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin and it is through the blood that cleanses us from all our sin (Heb 9:22, 1 Jn 1:7).

The Greek word for forbearance is *anochē* and means toleration. God was not imputing sin on man for the first 2,000 years (Rom 5:13). Once the law came in sin was now being imputed but now that Jesus has come those who put faith in Jesus are no longer under the law but under grace (Rom 6:14).

Romans 3:26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Through God's wisdom, He became both the just and the justifier. If a judge had a child who committed a crime it would be unjust to freely let his child go without convicting him. Justice has to be served so what does the judge do? The judge would step down and pay the penalty that his child deserves so he would become the justifier but also justice would be served.

This is what God did for us. As the ultimate Judge, God would be unjust to freely release us of our sins. Sin has to be punished and the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23) but the problem was that we could not offer any of our holiness to the Lord so God stepped down and became sin and paid the penalty for us. God paid a bill that He did not owe which was our bill that we could not pay. He did not just overlook sin, He was just and also became the justifier.

Romans 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

It's all about what Jesus has done not what we are doing. How can we boast in salvation if it is independent of our performance and what we do? Ephesians 2:10 says we are His workmanship.

This word in Greek means poimea and means something that is made and refers to a piece of art. Artwork is created by a painter and cannot boast in itself.

Laws govern the kingdom. A law is something that is constant and works the same for everyone, it does not fluctuate. The law of faith is a person's works based off something they believe. Their belief produces action. The works of the law are any effort or performance man does independent of God.

Romans 3:28 *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.*

Paul is now summarizing how a man is righteous with God and it is through faith in Jesus finished works and not our own works or performance (Gal 3:11). We are saved not by our own works (2 Tim 1:9).

The word conclude in Greek is logizomai and means to take into account. We need to take into account all that Jesus accomplished for us. Many churches are attempting to change their members behaviors. The horizontal of a person's behavior will change when the vertical of God's goodness is preached.

Romans 3:29 *Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also,*

God is the God of the Jews and Gentiles; the circumcision and the uncircumcision. The Israelites were God's chosen people under the Old Covenant but under the covenant of grace the door of salvation is open to anyone who puts faith in Christ (Rom 1:16). For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision or uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation (Gal 5:16).

Under the dispensation of grace, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs (Eph 3:6).

Romans 3:30 *since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.*

The Jews and Gentiles will only be justified by God based off faith in Jesus and Jesus only. Paul speaks about justification heavily in this book and Galatians.

Romans 3:31 *Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.*

This verse can be taken out of context and misinterpreted to say we should establish the law and put people back under it. This goes against not only the entire book of Romans but all of Paul's other Epistles. Justification is through faith not works (Gal 2:16, 3:11).

The Greek word for establish is histēmi and can mean to weigh. If we esteemed or weighed the law and its perfection it would open our eyes to see how we cannot keep it. We should see the

standard of the law and the peak that we could never reach or attain and that would cause us to weigh or esteem its standard.